

## Delphi goes forth with school renovation project

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Delphi Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees decided Monday night to hold a 1028 public hearing to allow comment on a proposed \$13 million renovation project. The hearing to be held at the next board meeting, is required by law before the board can proceed to enter into bondage to fund the project.

The split-vote to proceed did not happen without discussion and dissonance among board members. Envoy Inc. presented three renovation options for varying amounts of money in a work session prior to the board meeting. According to the Envoy spokesperson, options explained were identical to those presented earlier this year, prior to a remonstrance by opposition against the cost, which eventually halted the

project.

Superintendent Ralph Walker explained the school corporation was headed for a referendum vote at the polls in either a primary or general election. The board could also decide the county must hold a special election for the vote. Walker said the referendum was needed to enhance funding options while retaining as much in the capital improvement fund as possible due to a state mandated property tax circuit breaker.

Board members Nick Cronk, Melinda Rossetter and Jim Garrison voted to hold the 1028 hearing for a bond not to exceed \$13 million, which would include all costs including loan interest, with a 15-year repayment term. Jerry Sparks, William Trueblood and Chris Nipple voted against holding the hearing immediately. Board president Robert Resler broke the tie vote to proceed with the hearing.

Sparks said he thought another work session was needed to process the information from Envoy more fully and for board members to have a sense of unison before proceeding. "I feel we're split here," he said prior to the vote. "We need to get our minds together about this project. I cannot support this tonight."

Sparks emphasized he was not against some renovations but he was not comfortable with choosing a dollar amount without having more of a plan. "It's time for the rubber to hit the road," Cronk said in response. "How many work sessions do we need?"

Rossetter said she thought the board should pick a funding amount that the public could support and move on. However, Nipple disagreed. "At this time, I don't think \$13 million is something we can stick

our necks out for," he said.

"If we don't do something now, we might as well forget it," Resler said as he broke the tie vote.

The 1028 hearing will be Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the high school commons.

### Other business

Board members unanimously approved the proposed 2009 budgets. Walker said the tax rate would decrease due to debt retirement and state imposed controls.

A new air handling unit for \$49,978 will be installed in the middle school gym. It will provide heat but no air conditioning. The installation is scheduled to be completed in mid-November.

A Delphi Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) memorandum of understanding between the school corporation and the teachers union was approved. Teachers will be allowed to participate in a voluntary

tax shelter.

Non-certified staff approved for employment were:

- Katherine Volkel and Jacinda Garrison – middle school student council advisors; and
- Sarah Hoss – middle school SADD advisor.

During the public comments portion of the meeting after the business was finished, county resident Kevin Kremer thanked board members for the openness shown in the discussion about the proposed renovation project. He commented that it was frustrating for audience members to hear only a vote without hearing how each board member viewed the topic at hand.

"This is much appreciated by the public," he said.

The next meeting will be Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the high school commons area.

## County highway head to resign

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Although the announcement has not been made officially, Carroll County Highway Superintendent Ron Francis told highway department workers last week he intended to resign his post at the Oct. 6 commissioners meeting.

"They were pretty upset about it," he told the *Comet* Tuesday.

Francis said he would not confirm the rumor but indicated he would be leaving in November. He said he did not want to leave the position, however he could not "pass up the opportunity" to make close to \$10,000 more a year than he makes in Carroll County. He said the impetus for the possible move was when the county council refused to grant his request for a \$7,500 salary increase in 2009.

"Working in Carroll County has been a great growing experience for me," he said.



Francis

Commissioners president Loren Hylton said county leaders had not received "anything official" yet, but expected a letter at the Oct. 6 meeting.

"Ron has done a good job," he said. "I really hate to lose him."

Hylton said after Francis submits the resignation letter, commissioners would approach the county council to receive permission to fill the position.

"I haven't addressed this with the other two commissioners yet," Hylton said.

Hylton said he did not see the need to replace Francis with someone with an engineering license.

"We had an engineer in the past and we didn't use the stamp more than once that I know of," he said.

When asked if commissioner candidate, running unopposed in the November general election, Pat Clawson would be included in the decision-making process, Hylton said he was not inclined to include him any more than any other taxpayer.

"If he knows someone he thinks would be good for the position, he could ask them to apply," Hylton said.

Clawson said Tuesday he thinks county commissioners should hire an engineer. He said the state would pay a portion of the salary and it would be a good resource for the county. Clawson said commissioners should not rush to fill the position and should wait for a qualified applicant.

He said he would like to be part of the process to find Francis' replacement.

"I would like to see what's coming across the table at least," he said.

"We need someone who knows how to do the day-to-day operations, but manage the department like a business, too," he explained. "There should be no rash decision made."

## Burlington parade marshals



Jim and Jan Neptune were grand marshals in the Burlington Fall Festival parade on Saturday. The Burlington Community Club sponsored the float, which had a funeral home theme. The Neptunes had Neptune Funeral Home in Burlington for many years until re-

cently selling the business. There were 80 or more entries in the parade, including 56 tractors from Carroll, Clinton, Howard, and Cass counties. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

## Oct. 6 is last day to register to vote

Comet staff report

The deadline to register to vote for the Fall General Election is less than two weeks away.

Carroll County Clerk Laura Sterrett said the last day to register in person is Oct. 6. October 6 is also the last day that registration forms may be postmarked.

Voter registration forms may be obtained from her office or by downloading online at: <http://www.in.gov/sos/elections>

Questions may be directed to the clerk's office at (765) 564-4485 or 564-6795.

## County suffers four weekend fatalities

Comet staff report

Carroll County lost four residents in the course of three hours Saturday night due to two separate vehicle crashes in different areas of the county.

According to a Carroll County Sheriff's Department news release, the first crash happened on CR1100N, west of US421. A 1992 Chevrolet Z28 driven by Kristina Bowlus, 19, of Delphi, traveling west on CR1100N, left the right side of the road for an unknown reason. The vehicle came to rest on its top in a cornfield. Passenger Rebecca Mills of Monticello died at the scene from injuries suffered in the crash. According to the preliminary investigation, Mills died of blunt force trauma to the head resulting in severe brain damage.

The second crash occurred at 8:55 p.m. the same night at the intersection of CR900N and CR300E. A vehicle driven by Richard Hipsher, 21, of Delphi failed to yield the right-of-way to a vehicle driven by Terry D. Snider, 64, of Delphi, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Husband and wife Gary and Trina Stonebraker, both

43 of Delphi, passengers in the Snider vehicle, were also pronounced dead at the scene.

They were the driver's daughter and son-in-law.

Donna Snider, wife of the driver, was air lifted to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis where she remains.

Hipsher was transported to Logansport Hospital and later to a hospital in Fort Wayne. He has reportedly been dismissed.

The preliminary investigation revealed the Hipsher vehicle struck the Snider vehicle on the passenger side after failing to yield. All deaths resulted from blunt

force trauma to the head causing brain damage and internal injuries. Toxicology reports are pending.

Carroll County Sheriff Tony Burns and department Chaplain Ed Selvidge delivered the news of the deaths to the family.

"It was the hardest thing I ever had to do," Burns said Tuesday. "There's nothing harder than telling a family that they just lost a family member. In this case, they lost a large portion of their family."

Hippensteel Funeral Home in Lafayette is in charge of arrangements.

## Real estate process has begun for Hoosier Heartland

Comet staff report

Indiana Department of Transportation has announced the real estate process has begun for the Hoosier Heartland Highway project from Lafayette to Logansport. This

process includes land surveying, titling, appraising and purchasing, as well as relocation and demolition.

Affected property owners can expect to receive offers beginning this winter and continuing through early 2010. The

project website is [www.in.gov/indot/div/projects/sr25study](http://www.in.gov/indot/div/projects/sr25study).

For right-of-way questions go to [www.fhwa.dot.gov/realstate/realprop/index.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realstate/realprop/index.htm).

For questions concerning home or business removal

from right-of-way go to [www.fhwa.dot.gov/realstate/rights/index.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realstate/rights/index.htm).

For group or organization presentations call INDOT Public Involvement Director Aimee Kindred at (317) 234-4938.



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## Delphi man claims \$2 million Lottery prize

Comet staff report

John Chorrushi and his wife, Rachel, of Delphi are now \$2 million dollars richer thanks to the newest Hoosier Lottery Scratch-off game, Poker Showdown.

Chorrushi picked the new game because Delphi Dis-

count Tobacco was out of his favorite Scratch-off, Dazzling Diamonds.

Semi-regular customer, Chorrushi, walked back into Delphi Discount Tobacco and told store manager Tim Humphrey he would get a bonus. When asked if he hit anything worthwhile, Chor-

rushi replied he thought he hit the big one and asked Humphrey if it was what he thought it was. Chorrushi showed the ticket, but did not let go. Humphrey could not verify one way or the other, so Chorrushi jumped in his truck and headed for Indianapolis.

"This is my new favorite," said Chorrushi, who purchased two \$2,000,000 Poker Showdown tickets for \$30 each.

The Chorrushis don't have any plans for their prize yet. "We still need to sort everything out," he said.

Humphrey has been the

manager at Delphi Discount Tobacco for a little more than three years.

"I was shocked and surprised!" said Humphrey about Chorrushi's good fortune. "The smaller winners do not get as much publicity

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John Chorrushi

## Carroll sets corporation goals

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Corporation goals, school enrollment, the budget, and personnel were all addressed at the Carroll School Board meeting Sept. 16.

Superintendent John Sayers announced corporation goals for 2008-2009 as follows:

1. Improve facilities maintenance and appearance by developing a maintenance guide and schedule.

2. Improve graduation rate and standardized test scores through analysis and appropri-

ate action.

3. Achieve grade level reading proficiency through analysis of reading abilities of students in grades K-12 and determine action needed.

4. Develop corporation position on defibrillators at school.

The goals were developed through a series of board work sessions.

Sayers reported that Carroll's student enrollment on the official count day was 1,088.5, compared with 1,113.5 last year. He said state reimbursement amounts to

just over \$4,000 per student, so 25 fewer students means \$100,000 less funding to the corporation. He added that the majority of decrease in the student population is at the elementary school, particularly with a small first grade. He said last year the impact wasn't felt as much because as kindergartners each student in the class was counted as one-half instead of one.

The board authorized the superintendent to advertise the corporation budget. Sayers said it will appear in the news-  
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